

## NIFA in the News – Week of September 19, 2011

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the [NIFA newsroom](#)? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA in the news for the week of September 19, 2011.

Did you know you can receive NIFA's news releases via email? It's the easiest way to get the news as it happens. [Sign up in our newsroom!](#)

### In the News

**ADHD Symptoms Milder After Green Space Playtime (Environmental News Service 9/16).**

Children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder who regularly play outdoors in areas with green grass and trees have milder symptoms than those who play indoors or in built outdoor environments, University of Illinois researchers report. The study was performed with Hatch Act funds, and with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service National Research Initiative with a recommendation from the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

[Link](#)

**International swine conference set for November (High Plains Journal 9/16).** An international conference on feed efficiency in swine will bring experts from around the world to share their knowledge on this very timely and important topic in early November. Iowa State University animal science professor John Patience is excited about this program that focuses nearly two full days specifically on feed efficiency. The conference, set for Nov. 8 to 9 at the Hilton Hotel/Qwest Center in Omaha, Neb., is the first major activity of a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture coordinated by ISU and directed by Patience. [Link](#)

**PERSONNEL FILE FOR SEPT. 18 (Biloxi-Gulfport Sun-Herald 9/17).** Dana Nelson, research geneticist with the Southern Research Station Southern Institute of Forest Genetics, recently received a 2011 USDA Secretary's Honor Award. Nelson, a Saucier resident, shared the award with a team working to improve genomic-based breeding technologies for trees. The program is funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and allows tree breeders to enhance the growth of trees. [Link](#)

**College notes from the Coastal Bend (Corpus Christi Caller 9/19).** JoAnn Canales, associate dean of Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, will be the principal

investigator on a USDA-funded grant award to recruit and reward young Hispanic scholars to pursue a master's degree that will prepare them for a career in the food and agricultural sciences. The university has partnered with the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and the USDA- National Institute of Food and Agriculture to sponsor "The CULTIVAR Project: Connecting Underrepresented Latinos to Integrate Values and Academic Resources." [Link](#)

**Applications Sought for New Women Farmers (Woodbury-Middlebury Patch 9/19).**

Applications for the Beginning Women Farmers program are available, according to a press release from the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut. The U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded a Beginning Farmer Grant to teach women who have been farming for less than 10 years about the tools of whole farm planning. [Link](#)

**Former Lake Mills resident shares USDA Honor Award (Mason City Globe Gazette 9/19).**

Dana Nelson, research geneticist with the Southern Research Station Southern Institute of Forest Genetics, has received a 2011 USDA Secretary's Honor Award. Nelson, a former Lake Mills resident, received the award along with other members of a collaborative effort to improve genomic-based breeding technologies for trees. The program, funded through USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, provides tree breeders with new genetics-based tools to enhance and accelerate tree improvement. The award honors the Conifer Translational Genomic Network Coordinated Agricultural Project Team (CTGN CAP) for helping promote sustainable agricultural production and biotechnology exports. [Link](#)

**Cavity germs swim in baby drool (Futurity 9/22).** Infant saliva harbors bacteria associated with tooth decay and cavities—the most prevalent infectious disease in U.S. children. Swanson's study, published in PLoS One, focuses on infants before their teeth erupt, unlike most studies that focus on children already in preschool or kindergarten—after many already have dental cavities. The study was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. [Link](#)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

Published on September 22, 2011 / Jennifer Martin